

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A wire-stitching apparatus for producing wire-stitched print items, comprising:

a conveying arrangement for supplying folded, printed products in a straddling position;

a wire-stitching unit installed at an adjustable distance above the conveying arrangement and including a bending device, at least one wire-stitching aggregate, and a stitching carriage for moving the at least one wire-stitching aggregate back and forth along a path, wherein the at least one wire-stitching aggregate includes a bender for forming a wire segment into a staple with legs and a driver for pushing the staple legs through the printed products;

at least one wire feed for feeding wire for the staple to the at least one wire-stitching aggregate at a stitching wire length;

at least one adjustable wire-cutting device for adapting the stitching wire length of the staple to the thickness of the printed products;

a control unit for performing at least one of the following functions 1) measuring the thickness of the printed products positioned on the conveying arrangement upstream of the wire-

Nov. 7, 1903 stitching unit, <sup>or</sup> ~~and~~ 2) processing stored data related to the printed products; and

means for adjusting the wire-cutting device coupled to the control unit.

2. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting the wire-stitching unit, the wire-stitching unit adjusting means including at least one locally fixed means for driving the adjustment of the wire-stitching unit connected to the control unit.

3. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for adjusting the height of the conveying arrangement, the conveying arrangement adjusting means including controllable, locally fixed means for driving.

4. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wire feed is adjustable according to the thickness of the printed products, and wherein the apparatus further comprises means for adjusting the wire feed that includes a drive shaft extending through the stitching carriage parallel to the path of the stitching carriage and at least one drive wheel displaceably mounted on a drive shaft.

5. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the wire feed includes two friction wheels and a wheel arrangement driving the friction wheels to transport the wire.

6. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claims 4, wherein the gear is a miter gear.

7. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wire-cutting device includes a blade holder that can be adjusted to the thickness of printed products, the wire-cutting device adjusting means including a follower pin arranged on the blade holder, a guide track engaging the follower pin and extending at a slant relative to the path of the stitching carriage, a height-adjustable guide rail coupled to the follower pin, and at least one torque-controlled electric motor coupled to the height-adjustable guide rail.

8. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the guide rail includes a guide member, and wherein the wire-cutting device adjusting means includes drive cams arranged on the blade holders and a cam rail attached to the stitching carriage and acting upon drive cams of the blade holders of the

at least one stitching aggregate such that the cam rail can be driven back and forth inside the guide member of the guide rail.

9. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wire-cutting device includes a blade holder that can be adjusted to the thickness of the printed products, the wire-cutting device adjusting means including a follower pin on the blade holder that engages in a guide track extending at a slant to the path of the stitching carriage, means for driving the guide tracks, and a lever arrangement connecting the guide track to the guide tracks driving means.

10. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the guide track driving means includes an electric motor, a shaft extending through the stitching carriage parallel to the path and connected to the electric motor, at least one lever connected to the shaft, a guide rod connected to the at least one lever, and a cam rail actuated by the guide rod.

11. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a bending device that can be adjusted to the thickness of the printed products, the bending device having at least one bending block and an adjustable bending support

supporting the at least one bending block, and wherein the apparatus further comprises means for adjusting the bending support that includes a gear, a drive shaft attached to the gear, and a locally fixed, torque-controlled electric motor for driving the drive shaft.

12. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the bending support adjusting means includes a toothed segment drive-connected to the bending support, a stationary toothed rack that can be moved along with the toothed segment, and a lever arm arranged on the drive shaft of the electric motor and connected to the toothed segment.

13. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the bending support adjusting means includes a shaft-hub connection for connecting the drive shaft to the lever arm, the shaft-hub extending through the stitching carriage along the path of the stitching carriage for transmitting torque when being displaced by the drive shaft.

14. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveying arrangement is adjustable to the thickness of the printed products and includes a chain guide, at least one

link chain circulating on the chain guide with downwardly extending lifters, and a roof-shaped support with individual members attached to the chain guide, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for adjusting the conveying arrangement that includes lever gears attached to a drive shaft.

15. The wire-stitching apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the torque of the electric motor can be preset for operation.